

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: June 27, 2002

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on June 21, 2002

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and other significant developments:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Emergency Response, Chemical Spill, Wellsville Rest Area,
Wellsville, Ohio**

On June 13, 2002, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) requested assistance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to conduct an emergency response at the Wellsville Rest Area, Wellsville, Ohio. Earlier that day, an unknown party pulled a tanker truck into a remote part of the rest area and released an unknown quantity of low pH material onto the ground. Two Ohio Department of Transportation personnel walked into the area and one was overcome by the fumes. Both employees were transported to a local hospital where they were treated and released. Local fire departments and HAZMAT (hazardous material) units responded. The rest area was evacuated and the spill area was cordoned off because the spilled material was off-gassing. The spilled material was located adjacent to a park-and-ride parking lot that is highly used by commuters.

The Ohio EPA responder determined that an area approximately 8 feet by 20 feet was impacted. The State had no funding to conduct a removal action. The impacted area was located on the banks of Yellow Creek a tributary to the Ohio River. The weather forecast for the area called for heavy rains.

On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Jim Augustyn, the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team contractor (START), and the Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor responded and worked throughout the evening to excavate the contaminated

soil and secure it in a roll-off box. Approximately 15 cubic yards of soil were excavated and are awaiting disposal arrangements. No further action is anticipated for this site.

Contact: Jim Augustyn (440-250-1742)

Emergency Response, Storage Facility Fire, Round Lake, Illinois

On June 9, 2002, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Michael Harris responded to a fire at a Multi Unit Storage Facility in Round Lake, Illinois. The Round Lake Fire Department requested assistance when it suspected hazardous material was being stored at the storage facility. In one of the storage units approximately 75 one-gallon containers were found containing an unknown material. The Fire Department requested U.S. EPA assistance in identifying the material. During the investigation the owner of the storage unit was found and identified the material at which time the Fire Department took the lead of recycling the material.

Contacts: Michael Harris (312-886-0760)
Suzanne Conway (312-353-8360)

Emergency Response, Abandoned Cylinders, Lockport, Illinois

On May 31, 2002, 22 abandoned cylinders were discovered at an abandoned facility in Lockport, Illinois. Lockport Township Highway Authority, Will County, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) requested the assistance of the U.S. EPA to investigate the abandoned cylinders and address potential imminent and substantial endangerment to nearby residences. During investigation, On-Scene Coordinator Steve Faryan discovered the cylinders contained carbon dioxide, acetylene, and propane; and, secured the site. On June 12, the 22 cylinders were transported to be decommissioned.

Contacts: Steve Faryan (312-353-9351)
Suzanne Conway (312-535-8360)

Emergency Removal, J.R. Circuits Site, Wauconda, Illinois

On June 4, 2002, U.S. EPA initiated an Emergency Removal Action at the J.R. Circuits (JRC) site in the Village of Wauconda, Illinois. U.S. EPA was performing a removal assessment at this former Printed Circuit Manufacturing Facility during a heavy rainstorm when liquids exiting the building through the door and foundation were observed flowing towards adjacent residential properties. Rain was leaking through the roof causing the open vats of high and low pH plating solutions to overflow within the building. An Emergency Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor was mobilized to address the releases as part of an emergency action. The ERRS contractor covered all open vats with visqueen

topped wood framing to prevent further overflowing to the floor. All drums and smaller containers were collected from various rooms throughout the building. The Response Contractor vacuumed the spillage that remained on the floor. Soil borings have identified the presence of heavy metals and cyanide contaminated soil beneath the building. Disposal arrangements are underway at the site to remove vats and containers.

Contacts: Charlie Gebien (312-353-7645)
Suzanne Conway (312-353-8360)

Ongoing Removal, Laurel Dump #2, Laurel, Indiana

On May 29, 2002, the U.S. EPA removal action at the Laurel Dump #2 site was initiated. The site is approximately 5 acres in size located immediately adjacent to the Whitewater River in Southeast Indiana. The site was the former disposal area for solvents and paint waste from the former Jackson Paint Company. In February 2002, U.S. EPA test trenching and sampling documented partially buried and subsurface drums containing lead as high as 70,000 parts per million. Drums are located on the bank of the Whitewater River with numerous drums in the river. The removal action will include the removal of waste drums and contaminated soil. As of June 20, 2002, 3 of 15 removal grids were excavated for off-site disposal. The removal action is scheduled to be completed by August 2002.

Contact: Steve Renninger (513-569-7539)

De Minimis Settlement, Zionsville Third Site, Zionsville, Indiana

On June 4, 2002, U.S. EPA referred the proposed de minimis settlement for the Zionsville Third site to the U.S. Department of Justice for approval. Under the settlement, 77 de minimis settlers representing 81 potentially responsible parties (PRPs) and two Federal de minimis settlers have agreed to pay a total of \$3,083,555.54 into an escrow account to be held for payment of U.S. EPA's response costs and for funding the removal actions to be performed at the site. In addition, 34 non-de minimis settlers representing 35 PRPs have agreed to perform the response actions selected for the site by U.S. EPA and to pay all of U.S. EPA's oversight costs associated with the work.

Contact: Matthew Ohl (312-886-4442)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Indoor Air Quality Survey, Superfund Division, Chicago, Illinois

On June 19, 2002, the annual indoor air quality survey for the Superfund Division workspace, 77 W. Jackson Blvd, Chicago,

Illinois, was conducted by the Public Health Service under contract to U.S. EPA. Temperature, relative humidity, CO, CO₂, and volatile hydrocarbons were sampled. In addition, a physical walk-through and inspection of all Superfund Division workspace was conducted. The walk-through focused on the condition of the supply/return air vents, evidence of leakage in the ceiling spaces, and visible staining of the ceiling tiles and areas.

The Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) results will be provided to the building management staff, the union safety representatives, and the U.S. EPA Facilities staff. To date, there have been no major problems with the IAQ in the Superfund Division workspace.

The IAQ results and final report will be available in about two months, so some time in August there will be an outbrief meeting. Superfund staff members who are interested in the outbriefing conference, where the results of the current study will be discussed, should inform either Afif Marouf or Jacqueline Dillard of your interest.

Contacts: Afif Marouf (312-353-5550)
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